

EXHIBIT 37 ~~36~~
DATE Jan 27, 09
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To the Chair, Vice Chair, Representatives and Senators:

Regarding: Funding for Senior and Long Term Care Division; Funding for Home and Community Based Services

I'm here to testify that the home care services provided by the caregivers through Home and Community Based Services have been of great and immeasurable benefit to the quality of my life. I would probably be dead or in a nursing home without their assistance.

Such valuable service should surely entitle those caregivers to a better quality of life themselves in at least three areas:

- 1) increased wages
- 2) increased mileage pay
- 3) on-going health insurance made available to all caregivers.

Additional slots for HCBS should also be budgeted in. There are more than 500 people waiting for help. People who cannot properly care for themselves, take showers, take medications properly, or receive adequate medical assistance and attention.

Imagine if **YOU** were struck with a disability without the funds for a wheelchair, not one to help you with a shower or make sure you eat and take your medicine. Then you're told you can't get the help with these basic needs until more funds are available. Do you feel hopeless, worthless, dehumanized? You have the power to help those less fortunate. Isn't that really what gives meaning to your position and to your life?

Thank you for your attention.

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